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POL 14 VIETS

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Saigon 27998

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SP RUHHHQA/CINCPAC
SC RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
SAH STATE GRNC
L BT
H UNCLAS SAIGON 27998
SAL CINCPAC FOR POLAD
IO
P SUBJ: TRAN VAN HUOONG CONFIRMS CANDIDACY, NAMES MAI THO TRUYEN AS RUNNING MATE
USIA
NSC 1. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SAIGON DAILY NEWS IN VUNG
INR TAU, REPORTED JUNE 12, FORMER PREMIER TRAN VAN HUONG CONFIRMED
CIA PRESS REPORTS THAT HE WILL RUN FOR PRESIDE
AND THAT SOUTHERN
NSA BUDDHIST LAY LEADER MAI THO TRUYEN WILL BE HIS RUNNING MATE.
DOD
AID 2. HUONG TOLD THE DAILY NEWS THAT SINCE THE ELECTORAL

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CAMPAIGN DOES NOT BEGIN UNTIL AUGUST HE WAS NOT LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO REVEAL ALL CAMPAIGN DETAILS LEST QUOTE PEOPLE MAY MISUNDERSTAND AND THINK THAT I AM LAUNCHING MY CAMPAIGN TOO EARLY. UNQUOTE.

3. HUONG SAID QUOTE ALL PROBLEMS REVOLVE AROUND THE PRESENT WAR, A WAR WHICH WILL HAVE TO END, AND TO END BY NEGOTIATIONS. (1) THIS TIME PEACE WILL NOT BE DECIDED BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND THE VIET-MINH AS IN 1954 OR BETWEEN NORTH VIET-NAM AND THE AMERICANS, BUT CERTAINLY BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH VIET-NAM. THERE WILL BE NO QUESTION OF THIS SIDE WINNING AND THE OTHER SIDE LOSING. BUT BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS IN HONOR AND PROFITING FROM THE TEMPORARY PEACE. TO TRY TO ACHIEVE FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE GIVEN THE OCCASION, PERHAPS IN FIVE OR TEN YEARS FROM NOW, TO DECIDE TOGETHER ABOUT THE QUESTION OF REUNIFYING THE COUNTRY UNQUOTE.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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4. WHEN ASKED WHAT POLITICAL GROUPINGS WERE SUPPORTING HIS TICKET, HUONG REPLIED THAT THE TICKET QUOTE SEEKS TO SAVE THE NATION, THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE AND NOT A PARTY OR AN ORGANIZATION OF SOME PEOPLE UNQUOTE. HUONG ADDED THAT HE AND

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TRUYEN QUOTE UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLE OF STANDING OUTSIDE POLITICAL PARTIES AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS UNQUOTE.

5. HUONG DESCRIBED HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE DEFEAT IN THE ELECTION AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE IF THE PEOPLE JUDGE THAT WE ARE CAPABLE AND POSSESS THE QUALIFICATIONS TO SERVE THEM AND THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION, AND TO CARRY OUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES ENTRUSTED US BY THE ELECTORATE THEN WE SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND WE PROMISE TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES TO BE WORTHY OF THE TRUST. BUT IF THEY JUDGE THAT SOMEBODY ELSE IS BETTER QUALIFIED TO SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE THEN I WILL HAVE NO BITTERNESS OR REGRETS. UNQUOTE

6. HUONG SAID HE CHOSE TRUYEN AS HIS RUNNING MATE TO DISSIPATE THE BELIEF AMONG SOME PEOPLE THAT HE IS ANTI-BUDDHIST AND THAT HE OPPRESSED THEM WHILE HE WAS PREMAR. HE SAID, ACCORDING TO DAILY NEWS, THAT HE IS NEITHER ANTI-BUDDHIST NOR REGIONALIST AS OFTEN ACCUSED. HE ADDED THAT HE WILL RETURN TO SAIGON TO TAKE CARE OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WHEN THE ELECTION LAW IS PROMULGATED.

7. DAILY NEWS EXCLUSIVE WAS PICKED UP IN AND REPORTED FAIRLY FULLY IN FRONT PAGES OF AFTERNOON EDITIONSOF VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE DAILIES TU DO, CHINH LUAN, SONG, XAY DUNG, CHUYET TIEN AND TIENG VAN. IN SONG AND XAY DUNG THE REMARKS DEALING WITH PEACE WERE CENSORED OUT; IN THE OTHER PAPERS THEY WERE LEFT IN.
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